



General Assembly

Fifty-third session

Official Records

Distr.: General
11 November 1998

Original: English

Second Committee

Summary record of the 18th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 20 October 1998, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Asadi (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Contents

Agenda item 93: Sustainable development and international economic cooperation
(continued)

- (b) Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy (continued)
- (d) Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership
- (g) Cultural development

This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

98-81741 (E)



The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 93: Sustainable development and international economic cooperation (continued) (A/53/62, A/53/63-S/1998/100, A/53/69, A/53/72-S/1998/156, A/53/95-S/1998/311, A/53/96, A/53/124, A/53/155, A/53/168, A/53/204, A/53/296, A/53/371-S/1998/848, A/53/374, A/53/396, A/53/411, A/53/412, A/53/414, A/53/416 and A/53/453)

(b) Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy (continued) (A/53/174, A/53/336)

Rights of reply

1. **Mr. Özügergin** (Turkey) said that he wished to clarify an issue raised by the representative of Armenia in his statement at the previous meeting. His remarks regarding the economic blockade of Armenia by Turkey were unjustified and incomplete. Turkey felt no animosity towards the Armenian people, and in fact had been among the first countries to recognize Armenia. The reason that the Turkish-Armenian border was closed did not lie with his Government. He called on Armenia to pursue peaceful policies which would help the prospects of the region as a whole and of the Armenian people. At any rate, the Second Committee was not an appropriate forum for discussion of that issue.
2. **Ms. Aghadjanian** (Armenia) said that landlocked Armenia was subject to coercive economic measures imposed unilaterally by Turkey and Azerbaijan which hindered its economic development and quite often prevented the delivery even of humanitarian assistance to the Armenian population in the area affected by the 1988 earthquake and to refugees who had been forced to flee Azerbaijan.
3. **Mr. Pashayev** (Azerbaijan) said that his delegation agreed that the Committee was not the appropriate forum for such a discussion, but wished to clarify the statements about the so-called blockade by Azerbaijan. Armenia was occupying 20 per cent of the territory of Azerbaijan, and as a result of that aggression, there were one million refugees and internally displaced persons in his country, out of a population of 7.7 million. Armenia itself continued to blockade the Nakhichevan region of Azerbaijan.
4. As for the economic consequences of the Armenian aggression, 900 settlements had been destroyed, along with businesses and infrastructure. The damage was estimated in billions of dollars. Armenia was actively exploiting the occupied territories by building roads and communications

and using the natural resources found there, for example the gold mine in the Kelbadjar district.

5. **Ms. Aghadjanian** (Armenia) said that the transition to a market economy had been painful for every country, but Armenia's difficulties had been compounded by the devastating earthquake of 1988, which had destroyed about 40 per cent of the country's industrial potential. The enormous difficulties created by the blockade made it impossible to reconstruct the disaster area, and much of the population of the northern regions were still living in temporary dwellings without access to basic supplies or jobs. The once-flourishing economy was in a severe crisis and relied on foreign investments, which were hindered by the instability of the region and the economic blockade.
6. With regard to the blockade of Nakhichevan, Armenian authorities had made known, at different times and at different levels, their willingness to open their roads for transportation between Nakhichevan and the rest of Azerbaijan. However, Azerbaijan had declined those proposals, possibly preferring political manoeuvring to solving the real problems of its own people. That was not the first time Azerbaijan had used "Armenian aggression" to justify whatever economic, social or political problem it was facing. It was easier to find a scapegoat to blame for one's own shortcomings and failures than to solve real problems.
7. **Mr. Pashayev** (Azerbaijan) said that the Security Council had adopted four resolutions calling for the withdrawal of Armenian forces from the occupied territory; however, Armenia continued to ignore them. Armenia was maintaining its blockade of Nakhichevan and had destroyed and looted the occupied Azerbaijani territories. It also continued to hinder access to the Black Sea.
- (d) **Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership** (A/53/85)
- (g) **Cultural development** (A/53/321)
8. **Mr. Khan** (Department of Economic and Social Affairs) said that the item concerning renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership had been under consideration for four years before the high-level dialogue of 17 and 18 September. That dialogue had been an experiment which was considered highly successful.
9. In taking stock of what had occurred, several elements must be taken into account. First, part of the reason for the success of the dialogue had been the high-level involvement of key players in the development process from such spheres

as labour, corporations, academics and non-governmental organizations. Second, the current situation of world economic development had made globalization an urgent issue which had led to a fruitful and productive dialogue.

10. Future dialogues should have a highly topical theme of broad interest to the international community as a whole and with a direct bearing on world events. There should also be an emphasis on true dialogue rather than prepared statements. The most recent experience had indicated the importance of the involvement of other actors, as the Secretary-General had indicated in his report to the fifty-second session on preparations for that dialogue (A/52/425).

11. **Ms. Sibal** (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)), in introducing the report of the Secretary-General on cultural development (A/53/321), said that the Intergovernmental Conference on Cultural Policies for Development held in Stockholm from 30 March to 2 April 1998 had been convened in order to find practical responses to the challenges posed by culture and development. While culture was clearly rising in public awareness, it remained a low priority in the politics of most countries, as often reflected both in the level of resources allocated to it and in the status of the ministries dealing with it. The question was not whether Governments should adopt cultural policies but how they should do so more effectively. Eliminating stereotypes and constructing a culture of peace must be recognized as being of primary importance. Cross-cultural approaches between nations had also become indispensable.

12. The World Bank had taken a significant step by developing a lending programme for cultural projects. It had also hosted a conference on culture and development, which had brought together many governmental and non-governmental organizations that practised large-scale investment in cultural projects as an investment in development. At that conference, the Director-General of UNESCO had proposed that a "global cultural facility" analogous to the Global Environment Facility should be established.

13. The purpose of the Stockholm conference had been to give UNESCO a renewed mandate to promote international intellectual cooperation in terms that responded to the rapidly changing environment of the new millennium. That meant reviving the leadership role UNESCO had played in the 1970s and 1980s when it had organized a series of intergovernmental conferences on cultural policies. The Action Plan of the Stockholm conference invited the Director-General to integrate a cultural perspective into the

next International Development Strategy and the specialized agencies to evaluate their development practices and policies from that perspective. UNESCO must once again serve as the worldwide reference point and set the agenda in terms of cultural policy.

14. **Ms. Djatmiko-Singgih** (Indonesia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that with the advent of globalization, free market forces had become the arbiter of economic policy-making. The increased exposure of the developing countries to unfettered market forces had raised living standards for many countries; however, owing to the volatility of globalization, many others had been left behind. Even those developing countries in a better position to integrate their economies into the global economy had greatly increased their exposure to risk, which in the end had robbed them of their hard-won economic achievements. The challenge facing the international community, therefore, was to determine how to halt the financial firestorm threatening the world. The question of why the crisis was still spreading must be answered, for the price of failure could be further danger to the global economy.

15. Some dimensions of the problem were becoming clearer, however. Even in the best of times, economic cooperation for development had always been an imperative, and progress could only be assured through dialogue. The traditional international cooperation which had been enjoyed in the past had essentially ground to a halt, despite such important initiatives as the major global conferences of the 1990s and the launching of an Agenda for Development. Thus, with such a retreat from multilateral cooperation for development and the erosion of North-South dialogue, there was no alternative to revitalizing that dialogue, since many of the core issues of development could only be addressed in that way.

16. The high-level meeting of 17 and 18 September had been very useful in generating a rich pool of suggestions and ideas. The discussions had recognized that globalization was inevitable but had also defined it as a man-made phenomenon which could therefore be reshaped by humankind for the benefit of all countries. The Group of 77 saw no better framework than the United Nations for facing contemporary challenges in a spirit of the renewal of dialogue because of its unique characteristics of universality, neutrality and multilateralism.

17. **Mr. Plut** (Austria), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the associated countries Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, and, in addition, Norway, said that it was worthwhile continuing the high-level

dialogue on the benefits, risks and challenges of globalization, while looking at ways to further strengthen the framework of the Committee's discussions.

18. The high-level dialogue must be made capable of drawing high-level participation in order to maintain high visibility. The dialogue should have closer links to the work of the Main Committees of the General Assembly, in particular the Second Committee. At the same time, depending on the theme chosen, the possibility of linking the dialogue with the autumn meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank should be examined. Moreover, the European Union believed that the goal of high-level participation would be better served if the dialogue were biennialized.

19. The theme chosen for the dialogue should be clearly defined and have a distinct focus. A gender perspective should also be applied to the chosen theme, as recommended by the Beijing Platform for Action. The European Union therefore endorsed the Secretary-General's recommendation that the theme for the dialogue should be selected at least one year in advance to allow for adequate preparations.

20. Regarding the practical arrangements for the meeting, the European Union believed that the innovative and interactive elements in the discussion, the ministerial round tables and the panel discussions had provided for a most stimulating dialogue. Those elements should be enhanced in future, for example by allowing more time for discussion after the panel presentations. In that regard, limiting the number of panellists to three or four would be helpful. In future, the time of the general debate should be used for interactive discussions. Moreover, the preparation process should be kept as simple as possible. With the exception of the selection of the themes, no formal intergovernmental negotiations on the substance of the dialogue should be necessary. As to the outcome, the format of a Chairperson's summary should be maintained.

21. Mr. Liu Jingtao (China) said that the high-level dialogue on the theme of the social and economic impact of globalization and interdependence and their policy implications, held in the plenary Assembly, had been timely and necessary. In an era of globalization and interdependence, as illustrated by the spread of the Asian financial crisis, international development cooperation was more necessary than ever. As the world's largest intergovernmental institution, the United Nations had a unique role to play in that regard, particularly in promoting development, providing policy advice on global development issues and strengthening economic cooperation. Globalization also meant that the prosperity of the developed

countries could not be maintained without the healthy economic development of the developing countries. His delegation therefore appealed to the international community to redouble its efforts to ensure a favourable external environment for the growth and development of the developing countries, particularly the least developed countries.

22. Against the backdrop of globalization and interdependence, all States must recognize the importance of maintaining a dialogue on international cooperation. The international community, particularly the developed countries, should display the political will necessary to forge a genuine global partnership based on the principles of mutual benefit and shared but differentiated responsibilities. It should provide strong financial and technological support to the developing countries and promote capacity-building without seeking to impose a fixed development model, but rather should allow them to identify their own priorities and choose their own development path.

23. Mr. Adawa (Kenya) expressed his delegation's support for the statement delivered by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. His delegation welcomed the holding of the recent two-day high-level dialogue on the strengthening of international cooperation for development through partnership and hoped that all Member States would display the political will and commitment necessary to achieve further progress in that area. His delegation fully embraced the spirit of consensus-based multilateralism with a view to expanding mutually beneficial cooperation; to that end, the full participation of the developing countries was essential. His delegation believed that an analysis of global interdependence, particularly with regard to the global impact of macroeconomic policies and the evolution of world trading, monetary and financial systems should inform the development process.

24. The developing countries had fulfilled their responsibilities by carrying out political and economic reforms, including structural adjustment, at a high social cost. He now urged development partners to maintain a supportive global environment characterized by responsiveness to the needs of the developing countries, trade promotion, commodity diversification, market access, enterprise development and investment. The developing countries, particularly the African countries, had been unable to attract significant foreign direct investment or other private capital inflows and were heavily dependent on official development assistance (ODA), particularly for poverty alleviation. External debt continued to hamper investment, economic growth and social progress in

developing countries, particularly the African countries, yet the various debt relief initiatives applied thus far had been ineffective. There was a pressing need for speedier eligibility criteria that would enable more of the indebted low-income countries to benefit from such initiatives.

25. **Mr. Talbot** (Guyana) said that his delegation fully supported the statement delivered by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The first high-level dialogue on globalization had constituted a major stride in the effort to revitalize international cooperation for development. It had served to highlight the vital role of the United Nations in helping the international community to deal with both the positive and negative aspects of globalization, pursuant to Article 1 (3) of the Charter of the United Nations, which called on the Organization to solve international problems of an economic and social nature. As the most representative of the existing multilateral institutions, the United Nations must be involved in all aspects of a process that had such broad economic, financial, political and social implications.
26. Future high-level dialogues should focus on follow-up to the first one and should continue to accord priority to globalization and the potential influence of the United Nations in that regard. Accordingly, the Organization should include the issue of globalization in its agenda for future consideration.
27. **Mr. Suh Dae-won** (Republic of Korea) said that the only positive outcome of the crisis, if any, was an emerging consensus that the international financial system required a major overhaul. Such reform should focus on strengthening global multilateral governance based on genuine partnership and mutual interests for a better management of the globalization process.
28. His delegation believed that globalization was an irreversible process, not an option. In order to maximize its benefits and to minimize its risks, the globalization process must be carefully managed. The current financial crisis had underscored the inadequacies of the institutional architecture for global economic governance. There was a need to devise institutional mechanisms that would enable the international community to deal better with the current economic realities. However, any proposal for a new international financial architecture should take into consideration the interests of all the participants from both developed and developing countries.
29. The growing income inequalities between and within countries was one of the most disturbing aspects of globalization. Those gross imbalances in the global economy undermined the political feasibility of the globalization process. A conscious national and international effort should be made to prevent the marginalization of the least developed countries as well as of the most vulnerable groups of people within a country. The benefits of globalization should be shared as widely as possible.
30. The dichotomy of an external environment versus domestic policies was no longer valid. While it was true that individual countries were primarily responsible for their own development, globalization and growing interdependence had made a favourable external environment absolutely indispensable for any steps towards development.
31. The social, political and long-term development consequences of the Asian financial crisis reinforced the validity of the holistic approach to development. Thus, the United Nations, with its democratic membership and broad mandate, could make a unique contribution to international economic policy dialogues. There was also a need for closer cooperation and coordination between the United Nations, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization (WTO).
32. In view of the satisfactory results of the previous month's high-level dialogue on globalization, the proposition of continuing follow-up dialogues in the near future merited careful consideration. Moreover, the themes of future high-level dialogues should focus on more specific aspects of international economic and development cooperation and policy-making and capitalize on the comparative advantages of the United Nations.
33. **Ms. Khan-Cummings** (Trinidad and Tobago) expressed her delegation's support for the statement delivered by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The global conferences of the 1990s, the Agenda for Development, the high-level segment on market access in the context of globalization of the Economic and Social Council and the high-level dialogue on globalization had all highlighted the urgent need to take a multidimensional approach to development. In the context of globalization, the goals of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade had become more relevant than ever. Strengthened international cooperation was vital in order to avert a global crisis and to ensure that the development process took into account such issues as poverty and unemployment and promoted market access and the transfer of technology.
34. Her delegation agreed with the major components of development outlined in the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of the Economic

Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade (A/53/301), namely, economic growth, trade, finance, poverty reduction, employment and human resources development. The Agenda for Development, which had revitalized partnership for development and offered guidance for fulfilling the commitments undertaken at the United Nations global conferences, must be supplemented by political will.

35. Her delegation hoped that a consensus would be achieved in the ad hoc open-ended working group on financing for development in order to ensure financing for development strategies. It welcomed the establishment of the development dividend account for the developing and least developed countries, consistent with the recommendations of the Agenda for Development, and hoped that it would cover activities in the areas of trade facilitation and information technology for policy makers. The workshops proposed for the period 1998–1999 in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and Asia would be useful starting points for establishing the basic infrastructure. Activities to strengthen the capacity of developing countries to collect, analyse and apply information and enhance policy development in such areas as trade and development, the environment, gender issues and the advancement of women and sustainable development would be of particular importance to Trinidad and Tobago. It was imperative that sufficient resources should be allocated to projects carried out in small island developing States and the least developed countries.

36. She appealed to the international community to support the increasingly marginalized small island developing States and the least developed countries in their efforts to become part of the global economy through macroeconomic reform and regional initiatives. The promotion of special projects to facilitate the transfer of technology, training in market skills and trade promotion would help to alleviate unemployment problems in those countries and enhance international and regional cooperation. In July 1998, a Commonwealth ministerial-level mission had visited Washington, D.C., Geneva, Brussels and several international agencies, including the World Bank, IMF and WTO, in order to highlight the fragile position of small island developing States and their vulnerability to such exogenous factors as commodity price fluctuations, natural disasters and environmental degradation. Additional constraints included the small size of their domestic markets, the vulnerability of their economies to external shocks owing to excessive dependence on a narrow range of exports and

the difficulty of gaining access to international capital markets.

37. The international financial institutions must recognize the linkages between poverty, vulnerability and size in the small States. Country-level efforts in the small States and the least developed countries to monitor the adverse impacts of globalization and implement mitigating strategies must be stepped up. She urged bilateral and multilateral donors to focus special attention on small island developing States, particularly middle-income countries that were graduating from grant/aid programmes to the use of per capita income as their main benchmark. Aid should be channelled into capacity-building in the areas of physical infrastructure and human capital development. Capital flows and technical assistance must also be increased.

38. **Mr. Chouinard** (Canada) said that his delegation welcomed the report of the Director-General of UNESCO on the Intergovernmental Conference on Cultural Policies for Development and commended UNESCO on its efforts to highlight the role of culture in development. The follow-up to the Stockholm conference should include the development of a conceptual framework that would incorporate the cultural dimension into development, promote cultural empowerment and promote cultural diversity. In June, as part of the follow-up to the Stockholm conference in Canada, the Minister of Canadian Heritage had held an international conference on cultural policies in Ottawa to discuss the themes of cultural diversity and development, the role of culture in global relations, and culture and trade. Its ultimate goal was to strengthen cultural policies at the national level. The Canadian conference had been attended by 20 ministers of culture, representing both industrialized and developing countries, who had subsequently established an international network for the promotion of cultural diversity and the integration of culture into sustainable development. Future conferences would be held in Mexico in 1999 and in Greece in the year 2000.

39. The follow-up to the Stockholm conference should continue the work of the World Commission on Culture and Development, under the chairmanship of Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar, by stressing the importance of culture in development, identifying non-traditional cultural resources in societies and establishing links between cultural policies and social cohesion. In conclusion, he urged the United Nations system and the Bretton Woods institutions to integrate a cultural perspective into their development agendas.

40. **Mr. March** (Australia) welcomed the constructive and forward-looking nature of the recent high-level debate on

globalization, particularly in the wake of a number of unfocused and unproductive discussions that had failed to fulfil the Organization's role of highlighting economic and social issues vital to its Member States. It was particularly gratifying that the high-level dialogue had sought to develop consensus measures in areas where the United Nations had specific competence.

41. Recognizing the value of debate in a new forum, his delegation could support the holding of another high-level dialogue in the year 2000, which, like the recent dialogue on globalization, should address substantive issues within the Organization's competence in a balanced and forward-looking manner. Nonetheless, revitalizing and amending current practice in the regular United Nations forums was preferable to proliferating new, albeit effective, mechanisms.

42. **Mr. Calovski** (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) said that the question of marginalization was of particular interest to his delegation, which was concerned at the lack of preventive mechanisms to counter that phenomenon in a globalized era. He proposed including the problem of marginalization in the agendas of United Nations bodies, using as a point of departure, already existing studies and an action paper to be prepared by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the executive secretaries of the regional commissions. The Secretary-General might also wish to seek the views of Member States and international organizations such as IMF, the World Bank and WTO.

43. The priority objectives of such deliberations should be the elimination of all barriers to market access; resolution of the external debt problem; the adoption of special IMF/World Bank measures to promote investment in economies vulnerable to marginalization; special projects to promote sustainable development in economies at risk; the promotion of regional and global integration; and, at the national level, the adoption of policies and measures conducive to growth, democracy, the rule of law, the observance of human rights, environmental protection and the achievement of the goals of Agenda 21 and the World Summit for Social Development. His delegation and others would be sponsoring a draft resolution on the prevention of marginalization, which he hoped would be adopted without a vote.

44. **Mr. Baomar** (Oman) said that his delegation welcomed the statement made by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Group of 77. Referring to the major economic changes in the world that had taken place in recent years, including the removal of economic barriers

and the move towards a world economy, he said that globalization had revealed new challenges and dangers to the economies of the developing countries, many of which faced the danger of marginalization. It was necessary to find ways of avoiding the adverse effects of globalization and to assist the developing countries in adapting their economies to the changes that had occurred.

45. One of the principal means of achieving that would be for the rich countries to undertake to increase their development assistance and endeavour to find a comprehensive solution to the problem of foreign debt, and to integrate the developing countries into the global free trade system. The United Nations also had a potential role to play in that context, in coordination with the Bretton Woods institutions, by seeking international consensus on ways of addressing those changes.

46. His country had made great progress in exploiting its economic resources so as to keep pace with regional and global economic developments. Its development plans involved cooperation between the public and private sectors and were designed to ensure the country's access to international trade. In particular, his Government had taken steps to benefit from the country's strategic location on the sea routes between Europe and the American continent to the north and between Asia and Africa to the south. In that context, one of the major export projects in the region had been implemented at the port of Mina Raysut, which was on international shipping routes and would make an effective contribution to world trade.

47. His country was in the process of joining WTO. Being aware of the importance of worldwide economic cooperation, it had enacted all the laws and fulfilled all the requirements of the agreement establishing WTO, in particular with respect to patents, intellectual property rights and trade relations.

48. His country had striven tirelessly to promote economic cooperation both among the Gulf States and among the littoral States of the Indian Ocean in order to promote a favourable climate for commercial and economic relations.

49. **Mr. Svetogorsky** (Uruguay) said that the international community must become aware of the need for further integration of the cultural dimension into worldwide development efforts. Communications and computerization were playing increasingly greater roles in everyday life and demonstrated the tight bonds between culture and development. Not enough time was spent on discussing the changes in societies and the tribal and religious conflicts that plagued various parts of the world. There was no doubt that culture played a decisive role in the proper functioning of

societies. The world therefore required a solid culture that harmonized people-oriented concerns with economic concerns.

50. Referring to the World Decade for Cultural Development, he stressed that the Pérez de Cuéllar World Report was a significant contribution and an appropriate tool for reaffirming the concept of culture at the heart of development. In that regard, there was a need to follow up the recommendations made to the Director-General of UNESCO at the Intergovernmental Conference on Cultural Policies for Development. He wished to stress, in particular, the recommendation made to the Secretary-General of the United Nations that in one of the years of the United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, the General Assembly should have a chance to examine the relationship between culture, development and the elimination of poverty.

51. The greatest challenge now facing the world was to build up know-how and the capability to apply such know-how, and to empower young people to use it to cope with the inevitable process of globalization. The education of young people was the best vehicle for bringing about economic transformations, achieving greater political involvement and building worldwide peace.

52. At the dawn of a new millennium, the international community could not afford to be indifferent to the challenges involved in building a global culture for peace. His delegation therefore welcomed the recommendation by the Economic and Social Council that the General Assembly should proclaim, during its fifty-second session, the year 2000 as the International Year for the Culture of Peace.

53. **Mr. Mautchy** (Democratic Republic of the Congo) paid tribute to the United Nations and its specialized agencies for the outstanding services they had provided to his country even in troubled times. Sustainable development in his country could not even be discussed until structural cooperation with the international community had been resumed. The freeze in bilateral cooperation and the halt to structural programmes had sharply decreased external financing for investment and for balance-of-payments support. The structure of ODA had been completely modified in favour of humanitarian assistance and emergency relief. The conditionality which had been imposed upon officials of the Second Republic no longer had any reason to exist, given the achievements of the new Government, which, in a very short period of time, had scored significant successes in areas such as democratization, human rights and socio-economic development.

54. The Democratic Republic of the Congo could do better in its development efforts if the specialized agencies of the United Nations were to reconsider the allocation of the resources used for national staff, especially in the projects implemented. Thirty-eight years after independence, and following considerable investments in education, his country had become a net exporter of university-trained people and experts. That fact should prompt the decision-makers in the specialized agencies to make maximum use of national competence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

55. Development cooperation was a subject of great concern to his Government, so much so that it had established a Ministry for International Cooperation. Under the new Government, the people had decided to turn a new page and to develop a different type of cooperation which would be based on the sharing of knowledge and interests. In its new vision of cooperating through an even-handed diplomacy, the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo intended to promote active cooperation in the private sector, which was considered as the driving force for development. Under that scheme, the Government would guarantee the conditions of security for people and goods and promote legal and administrative guarantees. A new investment code had been finalized and would soon be in force. While his delegation was all in favour of South-South cooperation, it also intended to develop strong cooperation links with its partners in the North.

The meeting rose at 5.05 p.m.